

JANUARY 1987

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Renovations for the Tot Lot

At our November Neighborhood Council Meeting, the deterioration of the Alden Tot Lot, located at Sacramento and Oxford Streets, was discussed. At that time it was recommended by City Councillors Wolf and Duehay that we form a committee to make recommendations, and urge the City Manager to include these renovations in the next city budget.

We contacted Mr. Robert Steck, who is in charge of playground renovation, Community Development Department to advise him of the dilapidated condition of the park. He said that in the past playgrounds were renovated in a random fashion, but this year the city had done an inventory of all the city parks. He added that the Alden Tot Lot was one of the three parks he intended to recommend for renovation funds in the new city budget.

He listened to neighborhood concerns listed in the December Whistler, including safety in the Tot Lot and on Oxford Street. He added that he was happy with the basic design of the area and he said that he would be happy to work with a planning group from Agassiz once the money had been allocated for this renovation. However, he felt that we must now concentrate our efforts on allocation of the money for the renovation.

next council meeting...

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14
7:30 PM
Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento Street

Agenda to include update on Agassiz needs for upcoming city budget.

Alice Wolf followed up on our letter to Mr. Steck by sending a copy of that letter to City Manager Healy which stated that the Alden Tot Lot had in fact been given an overall grade of D in the city inventory and should be given consideration in the new budget. She added that Neighborhood 8 (Agassiz) has the **LOWEST PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE** in the FY 1987 budget," supporting the need for getting some things done in FY 1988."

The Tot Lot Renovation Committee will have a report for the Neighborhood Council at the January 14 meeting, 7:30 PM, Agassiz Community Center, or you may call the office at 498-9056.

OXFORD STREET TRAFFIC UPDATE

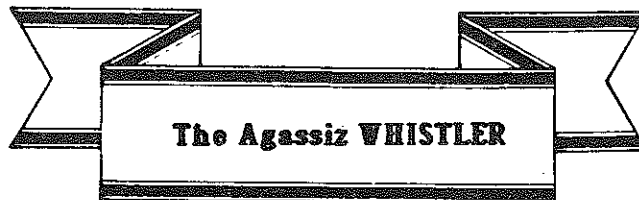
The traffic committee will be meeting sometime in early January, and they will discuss recommendations from Lauren Preston for a plan to end cut through traffic and therefore reduce speed and volume of cars on Oxford Street.

As was reported last month, the traffic department has enlarged "no parking" areas at Wendell St. corners, repainted crosswalks, replaced signs and fixed the cross walk button at Sacramento Street. These are all good measures, but the council would like to formulate a plan that would also include some long term options such as a traffic light and coordination with Somerville for the new bridge over the railroad tracks.

We hope the no parking around the Alden Tot Lot will be established soon, as well as a loading zone in front of the Oxford Spa

SINGLE PARENTS NETWORKING

An Agassiz parent is interested in planning special events, networking and helping single parents get together. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or want to help, call Lesley Warner 354-2168.



SACRAMENTO ST. PRESCHOOL ACCEPTING FOR FALL

The Sacramento Street Preschool located at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. is currently enrolling for the fall. Children who will be 2 years and 9 months by September are eligible for the program which is a 5 day program between 9 AM and Noon. Vacations are concurrent with the Cambridge Public Schools.

The program is developmental, and it is licensed for 16 children. There are two certified teachers, both are experienced and Lesley College graduates.

For more information or to visit the program, please contact Terry DeLancey at 498-9056.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

Afterschool Activities Program This program is for all Cambridge children in grades K-6 afterschool. The new term will begin on Monday January 5, and it will run for the next 3 months. Some highlights are:

- Monday: Recorder lessons and singing, Jazz dance, Science club, and Trips for 5-6th graders
- Tuesday: Drama and Music with Michael Punzak International Cooking, and Mini courses for 5-6th graders
- Wednesday: Computer Club
Drama and Theatre w/Michael Punzak and Video Production for 5-6th graders
- Thursday: Fine arts and Ceramics, Gym at Lesley Clubhouse for 5th and 6th graders
- Friday: Chess club, Bluebirds, Gymnastics, Storytelling, Sports for 5-6th Graders

Our Lesley Collaboration is strengthened with the addition of Helga Braein from the Lesley faculty to Community School staff during the Lesley College intersession. Helga will be teaching a fitness course for the 5-6th graders twice weekly, and she will be doing in service instruction for our staff during the kindergarten sports activity.

We continue to offer a special afterschool program for staff and students of the Lesley Graduate School.

For futher information and a brochure, contact Steve Winter at 498-9056, or 497-4284 after 2 PM

Holiday Gift Sale a real Success

Two weeks before school vacation, each Tuesday and Thursday the 5-6th graders from the afterschool ran a "For Kids Only" sale, with items for sale which cost from 10¢ to \$2.50. The goods included soap, fans, decorations, art supplies, and a variety of gift possibilities for sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and parents.

This year it was done on an experimental basis, but it was so successful that next year the 5-6th graders will work on it as their own project. Special thanks to Anna Fincke, Shana Kuhn Siegel, Clay Syren, Josh Drake, Michael Perryman, Cary Lytle and Josiah Epps!

ADS *** ads *** ADS *** ads

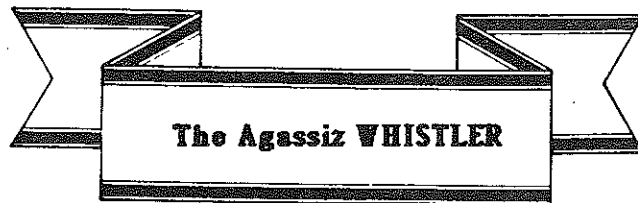
Cabinetmaker on Wendell Street will paint, refinish furniture and make repairs. Call Sam at 876-3450.

Pulse Aerobics for Everybody is held in the Agassiz Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30-7:50, Saturdays 10:30-11:50. Costs per ten week session are: for 2x per week, \$72; for 3x per week, \$102. Single classes are \$5. Instructors are Carolyn Bora and Elise Gispan, and for more information call Carolyn at 742-5342.

Apartment Needed-Long time Agassiz resident and son desperately seeking a two bedroom apartment in Cambridge. Rent controlled preferred but please call 491-8091 with any information.

CRIMEWATCH for December 1986

- Oxford St. - Bicycle theft, larceny under \$200 from a building
- Crescent St. -Malicious destruction of property and theft from an unlocked car
- Sacramento St. -Possession of cocaine (at Mass Ave)
- Wendell St. -Theft from unlocked car, larceny from building under \$200
- Howland St. -Daytime break in
- Mass. Ave. -One hit and run, one speeding, 2 larceny
- Farrar St. -Indecent Exposure
- Irving St -Indecent Exposure



What is the Agassiz Neighborhood Council ??????

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is a private non profit, tax exempt corporation. We are contracted by the City of Cambridge to identify needs and implement human services and programs in the Agassiz Neighborhood. The School Department allows us to use the Agassiz School building for our programming after school hours. The city funds the cost of one full time staff person, the neighborhood co-ordinator, and allots the Agassiz Neighborhood \$5,000 in program funds. These funds are used to publish and distribute The Whistler monthly, to purchase trees for the neighborhood, to furnish scholarships for our afterschool programs, to host the Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner, and to encourage special programs such as the Agassiz Reading Series and Sacramento St. Gallery Shows.

The Neighborhood Council meets on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7:30 in the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento Street. These meetings are open to all residents of the neighborhood, and we **ENCOURAGE YOU** to attend. The Whistler, which is distributed the first week of each month, will include the council meeting date and agenda. However, these meetings are a chance for every resident in the Agassiz Neighborhood to bring up any neighborhood business that concerns them, which can include issues from safety on the streets to saving trees. Attendance at one meeting per year makes you a voting member of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council.

There are many subcommittees which deal with a variety of issues, some are long standing, such as traffic and safety, others dissolve when there is some resolution, as in the Porter Square Working Committee. There is always a chance for community members to participate, and this participation strengthens the council and helps to make it a force in our city.

There is an executive board for the neighborhood council, and this board is comprised of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and two representatives from the Parent Steering Committee of the Agassiz Community School. All positions are elected for one year.

The Agassiz Community School runs all children's programming sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. It includes Sacramento Street Preschool, the Afterschool Activities Program for K-4th Grade, the Afterschool Activities Program for 5-6th Grade, an Afterschool Childcare Program for children in grades K-2nd, and Outback Summer Camp. The Community School is run by a program director and governed by the Parent Steering Committee.

The Agassiz Community Center, located at 20 Sacramento Street, is leased by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council from Harvard Real Estate, Inc. This building houses the neighborhood council offices, Sacramento Street Gallery, several Community school programs, and a meeting room. The meeting room is used by the neighborhood council and their committees. Other meetings of interest to the community are scheduled there as well. For a nominal fee, the meeting room may be rented by community groups.

For more information on any of the programs please contact the Agassiz Neighborhood Council Office at 498-9056.

December 15 Fire Displaces 6 Agassiz Families

On Monday December 15 at approximately 9 AM an electrical fire began in apartment 1R at 84 Wendell St., a Harvard owned building. The tenants had had ongoing problems with the wiring and finally it was so dangerous it ignited. Six families were left "out in the cold" just ten days before Christmas.

Harvard has given them temporary housing, but they are left to pack up everything in a smoke filled, partially gutted building with no heat or electricity.

In a contract with the tenants, Harvard has agreed to let them move back in at the same rent when insurance covered repairs are done. A Harvard representative told the tenants that "after repairs the building will be brought up to code." Just a little too late for six neighborhood families.

Community Calendar

JANUARY 1987

- January 5 School Reopens, Afterschool Reopens
January 14 Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:30 PM Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento St.
January 14 Agassiz School closes, Afterschool opens 12.45
January 14 Parent Steering Committee, Agassiz Community School
6-7 PM, Snacks and childcare
January 19 Martin Luther King Birthday- NO SCHOOL or AFTERSCHOOL

BORIS...

Our 15 year old siamese male sealpoint cat ran off behind our house at 84 Wendell Street during a fire on December 15.

Boris is our old and dear family member, and it's bad enough being displaced out of our favorite neighborhood for 3-4 months and losing some of our possessions, but to lose Boris !!

If you know of his whereabouts please call Joyce Pavao-547-0909.

**Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138 498-9056**

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